

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

Sourcelines

SPEED LETTER

REPLY REQUESTED

DATE 24 June 1965

50X1

☒

YES

☐ NO

LETTER NO.

TO

FROM

50X1

ATTN:

A minor question has arisen here [redacted] concerning the sourceline to be used for Channel 1 programs of the West German television service. Channel 2 presents no problem, as these programs always originate in Mainz and thus carry the Mainz domestic television service in German sourceline. 50X1

Second channel programs, however, with the exception of the 1900 GMT newscast, which always originates in the Hamburg studios, are likely to come from any studio and are usually not identified by origin. To give all these programs the Hamburg domestic television service in German sourceline, as we have been doing, is not quite accurate.

One of our supervisors has suggested that when the studio of origin is unknown, we be permitted to use the sourceline "West German Domestic Television Service — GMT etc." Does this strike you as a reasonable solution, or do you simply want us to continue using the Hamburg sourceline?

50X1

REPLY

DATE

30 June 1965

This is indeed a complicated problem. When an unknown is involved, the safest rule is to stick to the knowns. What we do know for sure in such cases (at least, this is our understanding here!) is that the program is being received via Frankfurt facilities. Therefore we are never fully wrong to identify the source as Frankfurt, and we presumably are much more likely to avoid challenge of the source than if we arbitrarily slug it something else, as Hamburg. Of course, your proposal to call it simply "West German" is also a known, but we feel it is likely to raise more questions than it solves. So, unless specific evidence comes to light about the origin of the unidentified studies programs, please use the name of the transmitter monitored, presumably Frankfurt.

50X1

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